

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECSTATE WASHDC 4589

C O N F I D E N T I A L DHAHRAN 0118

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA, JO

SUBJECT: TAPLINE/GOJ NEGOTIATIONS

REF: AMMAN 0141, AMMAN 0084

1. ARAMCO VICE PRESIDENT MAJED ELASS TOLD ME TODAY THAT HE WILL BE LEADING A TAPLINE TEAM TO AMMAN JFUARY 27 FOR A ONE DAY NEGOTIATING SESSION CONCERNING GOJ ARREARS TO TAPLINE. THE TAPLINE DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE ARAMCO ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL MARCEL GRIGNON, FINANCIAL MANAGER B.J. MCCONNELL, AND TAPLINE MAGER OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ESTERN COUNTRIES, DAVID DODGE.

2. ACCORDING TO ELASS, THE RECENT JORDANIAN/SAUDI DISCUSSIONS REPORTEDLY WENT WELL FOR THE JORDANIANS, WHO NOW APPEAR READY TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH TAPLINE. THE AGREEMENT, IF CONCLUDED, PROBABLY INVOLVE THE PAYMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 9106 MILLION DOLLARS AND WOULD BE BASED ON A SPECIAL FORMULA DEVELOPED BY THE SAUDIS TO PROVIDE OIL TO JORDAN AT COST OR MARKET PRICE, WHICH EVER IS LOWER.

3. ELASS ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS JORDANIANS PREPARED TO SIGN, AND ARAMCO/TAPLINE WISHES TO PUT THIS TROUBLESOME ISSUE BEHIND IT, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT THE LATTER ARE STILL AWAITING SPECIFIC APPROVAL FROM THEIR

OWNERS.

4. FYI: DAVID DODGE LATER DISCUSSED THE NEGOTIATIONS BRIEFLY WITH ME AND APPEARED LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT AN EARLY SETTLEMENT. HE STRESSED PARTICULARLY HIS DOUBTS THAT THE JORDANIANS WILL BE READY TO PAY FOR OIL PROVIDED THEM BEFORE APRIL 1975, WHICH WOULD LEAVE A SIZEABLE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.
BUSHNELL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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